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Rural Information Center

MAY

UPDATE

1988

National Agricultural Library

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Beltsville, Maryland 20705

RIC PROCEEDS WITH NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

RIC has functioned on a limited basis since being inaugurated by Deputy Secretary Peter Myers in September 1987. During this time the Center has hired and trained staff, and implemented a pilot project in January with Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico and Vermont. Although RIC has not been nationally promoted, forty states and the District of Columbia have already discovered RIC and have requested information services.

The Center's principal users are the six pilot states and Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and New York who learned of RIC's services from newsletters and users. These eleven jurisdictions comprise 60% of all RIC requests.

The pilot demonstrated that RIC is a viable information center. The USDA Extension Service is expanding RIC services nationally to all Cooperative Extension Services by inviting them to participate in the RIC project and designate a RIC State Coordinator. The Coordinator will serve as a central contact person to work directly with the RIC staff in providing information requested by rural officials, leaders and economic development organizations.



RIC OUTREACH: EXHIBITS, FACT SHEET DISTRIBUTION, PRESENTATIONS

*EXHIBITS

* "What Works, Small Farms, Finance and Management", March 13-15, Burlington, VT. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Rural Studies, University of Vermont in conjunction with USDA Farmers' Home Administration.

* Revitalizing Rural America National Priority Initiative Extension Meeting, March 22-24, Tucson, AZ.

* Pacific Egg & Poultry Convention and Exposition, April 26-29, San Diego.

* Public Library Association's Third National Conference, April 27-30, Pittsburgh, PA. RIC is exhibiting with the Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship, Clarion University, PA.

*FACT SHEET DISTRIBUTION

*Jeffery Layman, state president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, requested RIC fact sheets to send out to all Ohio Extension agents.

* The USDA Economic Research Service requested fact sheets to distribute in their information packets "Your Hometown: Information on Economic Development in Rural America".

A Joint Project of:



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*PRESENTATIONS

Patricia John, RIC Coordinator, gave a presentation about RIC to the Leadership Education and Public Affairs staff development travel study seminar sponsored by the Illinois Cooperative Extension Service. Thirty five extension staff participated.

RIC'S SECRETARY

Marion Carroll became the RIC secretary in April. Mrs. Carroll previously worked as a Maryland State employee for seven years and as a Federal employee for eleven years at the Social Security Administration. She came to the NAL in 1987 where she first worked with the Animal Welfare Information Center before joining the RIC staff.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RIC QUESTIONS

BREAKDOWN OF RURAL REVITALIZATION QUESTIONS		
	FY88 Average	March 1988
Economic Viability	64%	33%
Local Government Services	23%	28%
Quality of Life/ Natural Resources	11%	22%
Leadership/ Community Change	2%	17%

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RIC USERS

AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN		
	FY88 Total	March 1988
State and County Extension	37%	48%
USDA Officials	10%	16%
State Officials	7%	5%
Community/ Rural/Econ. Organizations	7%	5%
Congress	4%	4%
University	10%	3%
All Other	25%	19%

STATES SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS		
	FY88 Total	March 1988
District	20%	15%
Illinois	6%	12%
Vermont	4%	7%
Pennsylvania	4%	7%
All Others	66%	59%
Total No. of States	41	27